

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

How will the system differentiate between an illegit and a legit copy, as the same methods are used for both. Only difference is what one choose to do with the copy, it is that which is illegal (distribution of legal copies).

And by the way, what is legal today might very well be illegal tomorrow, if the companies in control decides to further limit the end-users rights.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Again I'm very curious about how they're thinking of implementing it, as it would require ESP to figure out what a person intends to do with the content. Thus to figure out if it's going to be used illegally or legally.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

This is perhaps the important issue with this broadcast flag: It would force people to buy new equipment, and that's even bad enough, this time equipment which is in the industry's complete control.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes it will: When the big industry has complete control over all transmissions it would be quite easy for them to block anything they don't want to be distributed, after all the definition of "illegal" and "legal" content is only defined by the broadcast flag.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

For the industry: A HUGE economical boost, as millions of people will be forced to buy new equipment in order to receive any transmissions. Radio, TV, probably phone (this is planned as well) and all sorts of equipment that can either send, receive and/or use media content in any way (including PC's, referring to MS's Palladium system).

Other Comments:

It will be a serious undermining process of the civil rights, and put too much control into one or a few companies' hands. A scenario which is too similar to the DDR's secret police, Stalins secret police and many other similar companies/departments.